

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A joint and cable structure ~~of a superconducting cable~~, comprising:

a superconducting cable;

a long conductor;

a conductor connecting member connecting said superconducting cable and said long conductor; and

an insulating spacer covering said conductor connecting member, wherein

a connecting portion ~~between~~ of said conductor connecting member and said superconducting cable is arranged inside a hollow tube that is provided at a core portion of said insulating spacer; and

wherein said insulating spacer covers a region extending at least from a connected portion of said superconducting cable and said conductor connecting member to a connected portion of said long conductor and said conductor connecting member.

8. (Currently Amended) The joint and cable structure ~~of a superconducting cable~~ according to claim 7, wherein a connecting portion ~~between~~ of said conductor connecting member and said long conductor is arranged inside the hollow tube provided at the core portion of said insulating spacer.

9.-10. (Cancelled)

11. (New) The joint and cable structure according to claim 7, wherein the conductor connecting member comprises a multi-contact connection to said long conductor.

12. (New) The joint and cable structure according to claim 7, wherein said hollow tube is composed of an electrical insulating material.

13. (New) The joint and cable structure according to claim 12, wherein said hollow tube is composed of a resin material.

14. (New) The joint and cable structure according to claim 12, wherein said hollow tube is composed of the same material as said insulating spacer.

15. (New) The joint and cable structure according to claim 7, wherein said insulating spacer is composed of an epoxy resin material.

16. (New) The joint and cable structure according to claim 7, wherein said insulating spacer has a middle section and two opposite ends, wherein the middle section is thicker than ends.

17. (New) The joint and cable structure according to claim 16, wherein said ends of the insulating spacer are tapered.

18. (New) The joint and cable structure according to claim 7, wherein said hollow tube is composed of an electrically conductive material.

19. (New) The joint and cable structure according to claim 7, wherein said hollow tube is composed of an electrically conductive aluminum material.

20. (New) A joint structure for coupling a superconducting cable and a further cable together, the joint structure comprising:

a conductor connecting member for connecting a superconducting cable and a further conductor; and

an insulating spacer covering at least a portion of the conductor connecting member, the insulating spacer including a core portion and a hollow tube located at least partially in the core portion;

wherein the conductor connecting member has a pair of connecting portions disposed within the hollow tube for connecting to the superconducting cable and the further cable, respectively; and

wherein the insulating spacer covers a portion of the conductor member that extends at least from the connecting portion of the conductor connecting member and the superconducting cable to the connecting portion of the conductor connecting member and the further cable.

21. (New) The joint structure according to claim 20, wherein the connecting portion of the conductor connecting member and the long conductor is arranged inside the hollow tube provided at the core portion of said insulating spacer.
22. (New) The joint structure according to claim 20, wherein the conductor connecting member comprises a multi-contact connection to the further conductor.
23. (New) The joint structure according to claim 20, wherein said hollow tube is composed of an electrical insulating material.
24. (New) The joint structure according to claim 23, wherein said hollow tube is composed of a resin material.
25. (New) The joint structure according to claim 23, wherein said hollow tube is composed of the same material as said insulating spacer.
26. (New) The joint structure according to claim 27, wherein said ends of the insulating spacer are tapered.
27. (New) The joint structure according to claim 20, wherein said hollow tube is composed of an electrically conductive material.
28. (New) The joint structure according to claim 20, wherein said hollow tube is composed of an electrically conductive aluminum material.